

CCT named one of 12 OAY

By Tech. Sgt. Ginger Schreitmuller
AFSOC Public Affairs

A Combat Controller from the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron is one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

Staff Sgt. Jason Blodzinski, who was selected as Air Force Special Operations Command's Airman of the Year, joined the Air Force six years ago to be a Combat Controller.

Since 1998, the New York native has been stationed at Hurlburt Field, and in that time he became a preeminent Special Operations tactical expert.

"Sergeant Blodzinski made outstanding contributions to Operation Enduring Freedom," said Lt. Col. Pat Pihana, former commander of the 23rd STS.

While in Afghanistan, the sergeant was attached to Army, Navy and coalition Special Operations Forces. On more than one occasion he provided expertise in calling precision air strikes on enemy positions while under fire.

He was a key player during the establishment of a remote airfield, he provided an effective interface between air and ground forces, and he confiscated tons of armament and captured numerous prisoners while searching enemy caves, according to Colonel Pihana.

Sergeant Blodzinski also played a vital role in the mission as a diplomat forging alliances with Afghan military leaders and members of the interim government.

"We in the 23rd STS take great pride in his selection as the Air Force's top airman. His superb leadership and job performance earned Jason this recognition," said Colonel Pihana.

"I was very humbled when I was informed I had been selected to represent the Air Force," said the 27-year-old Controller, who recently returned from a deployment in

See **COMBAT**, Page 7



Photo By Senior Airman Sam Taylor

Norman Ben-Maor, 16th Services Squadron recycling center manager, uses a forklift to raise more than 500 pounds of cubed aluminum cans to an already enormous stack.

CES does well during ECAMP

By Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson
Public Affairs

A team of 16 personnel swept through Hurlburt Field July 14 – 18, as part of the base-wide External Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program.

The annual inspection, which rotates from an internal to an external assessment each year, was designed to identify any non-compliance with environmental laws, regulations or statutes.

The inspectors covered the entire base and tried to visit as many shops as possible, and overall it went extremely well, according to Traci Dewar, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron, chief environmental flight.

"The vast majority of findings were minor in nature," she said. "Several of the findings were either fixed on the spot or will be fixed shortly. The others will be closed in the near future as well – they involve projects that will need timelines for

budgeting and execution."

Overall the inspectors noted a total of 58 findings. They rated the findings on a scale of "significant" (immediate risk), of which the base had zero findings, to "positive," of which the base received eight ratings. Others findings were marked as low or management practices.

One area in particular that the team rated as positive was the salt marsh project that required a rock wall to be constructed around the outside perimeter of a marsh area, explained Philip Pruitt, 16th CES, natural resource manager.

"The rocks act as a wave break that reduces wave energy from commercial barge traffic, recreational boaters and tropical storms," Mr. Pruitt said. "The newly formed protected area provides the low energy environment necessary for vegetation to be established."

See **ECAMP**, Page 7

Feature



Youth camp

Local youth treated to Special Ops adventure

Page 14

News

Commander's call



The 16th Special Operations Wing Commander will hold a commander's call today from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Freedom Hangar. The event will include the formal presentation of the 2003 Air Force Special Operations Command 12 Outstanding Airmen of Year Awards. Dress is uniform of the day. Members may park at the Chapel, J.R. Rockers, the Base exchange or the Soundside. Shuttles will run from the Base exchange, theater and Soundside starting at 12:45 p.m.

Sports



Sports extravaganza

Hurlburt Field has sports for everyone

Page 11

VIEWPOINTS

Open Line

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community. I really appreciate your feedback.

To receive a response, leave your name, unit and telephone number. Open lines of general interest will be printed in the **COMMANDO**. I'll answer the others

by letter or phone call. Remember, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you, and perhaps improve their process.

However, if you're not satisfied with the answer you receive, feel free to give me a call at 884-OPEN (6736), or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil.



Col. Frank Kisner,
16th SOW commander

construction halt

Comment: I'm calling because it seems that the progress on the back gate road has stopped as it relates to the piece of pavement that would allow the back gate road to function normally. There is still a lot of construction activity going on in other phases of the work. Is there a reason for that? Thank You.

Reply: Thanks for your call. As I'm sure you're aware, the

local area has seen record levels of rainfall for this time of year, made even worse by the latest tropical storm.

Unfortunately, the associated rain delayed our ability to prepare the road surface for several days until conditions improved. Since that time the contractor has continued working to finalize this project, which we expect to be finalized before the end of July. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you, however we're confident you'll be pleased with the end result.

Don't let 'details' slide – wear your pride

By Maj. Gen. Michael Wooley
Third Air Force commander

ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England – Ralph Waldo

Emerson once noted: "What you are stands over you... and thunders so that I cannot hear what you say to the contrary."

What does this mean in today's Air Force? I believe it means that I should be able to spot professional airmen from across a parking lot, before they render a sharp salute and a verbal greeting. I should be able to tell by the manner in which they carry themselves, with their heads held high and looking everyone in the eye, and by the crisply ironed uniforms bloused over freshly shined boots. It means that those of us who serve don't just throw on a uniform because we have to. We wear it with pride because we choose to.

The men and women of the U. S. Air

Force comprise the finest fighting force in the world. With few exceptions, they are honorable, brave warriors who have conducted themselves brilliantly in conflict. They embody the spirit of the heroes of past and give us great hope for the future.

Given what many of us have been through during our days in the Air Force – the end of the Cold War; downsizing; the Gulf War; operations Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and numerous others – focusing on military standards of dress and appearance may seem like getting "down in the weeds" with details. Experienced military men and women know, however, that it's often the details that mean the difference between mission accomplishment and failure.

I know how easy it is to let customs and courtesies slide when deployed, when trying to accomplish so much with so few people and resources, when

we're all hyper-focused on life-or-death missions. But we're what the American people and our allies see and equate to the U.S. military. No matter what the rank, how we look and conduct ourselves does matter. If we "let the details slide," then who's to say what's next?

Everywhere I go I am consistently impressed by the sharp men and women I meet because I know why they behave that way. They take pride in their Air Force, and how they conduct themselves underscores that pride. Each of us who serves is a role model, an ambassador in blue.

For those who have gone before us, who have given their lives so that we could have this great Air Force, so that we could enjoy the wonders of freedom and liberty, we pledge our best. Remember each morning as you put on your uniform what it stands for. Then you will always look, act and be that ambassador. (AFPN)



Centennial of flight

One of the most powerful geniuses in history was the Italian polymath Leonardo da Vinci. Born in 1452, he produced extraordinary drawings, paintings and sculptures. Chief among his interests was science and technology. And ranking highest among these was the possibility of human flight.

He can be considered the father of conceptual aerodynamics, the study of fluid flow, for he recognized that air behaves like water – flowing around objects and forming eddies and vortices. He generated theories of how a wing produces its lifting force (though he was not correct in his assumptions), and then, based on his studies of bird anatomy, produced drawings of proposed flying machines. Today he's recognized as one of the great pioneers of flight.



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NEWS



Photo By Staff Sgt. Greg Pavis

Rising Sophomore

Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets pose in the Hurlburt Field Airpark after finishing a six week program here called Rising Sophomores. Since their arrival June 23, the cadets worked with security forces, civil engineers, services and at the hospital and much more during the Secretary of the Air Force-directed program.

NCO holds Air Force Times Airman of Year honorable mention

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

A senior noncommissioned officer in the 16th Security Forces Squadron here recently received an honorable mention for the Air Force Times' Airman of the Year.

Master Sgt. Eric Hanson, superintendent for resources and training, has been recognized as a leader, a protector, an event coordinator and an "airman's airman" by Maj. Michael Reiner, 16th SFS commander.

Sergeant Hanson served as the security coordinator during several Special Operations mission deployments to South America, where he provided mission commanders with expert advice — before, during and after the mission, Major Reiner said.

However, when he's not leading flawless special security missions in Africa or conducting site surveys of classified remote landside locations, Sergeant Hanson's at Hurlburt Field playing the role as a key security supervisor.

According to his award package, Sergeant Hanson leads approximately 60 active-duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel to ensure the protection of the base community and more than \$4 billion worth of Special Operations assets.

In addition, during Tropical Storm Isadore, Sergeant Hanson ensured a successful transition of aircraft security from the base to the new location.

"Master Sgt. Hanson is the best of the best — he proved it this past year with his tremendous impact at his home station and while deployed," Major Reiner said.

Not only does he protect the base, but Sergeant Hanson also coordinates special events for the base routinely. His most recent role was supervising traffic, parking and crowd control for more than 12,000 guests during the 4th of July Sound of Independence celebration.

Sergeant Hanson also played a key role in planning and conducting events for National Police Week for all of north-west Florida, Major Reiner said. In addition, he provided 25 foot patrols for base housing on Halloween night, ensuring a safe environment for the trick-or-treaters.

Even in his off-duty hours, Sergeant Hanson continues to reach out to the community by: providing free Thanksgiving meals for more than 250 unit and family members; fingerprinting more than 100 children at Family Fest and serving as both a youth basketball and bowling coach.

Furthermore, Sergeant Hanson led the wing Combined Federal Campaign drive and mentored young airmen at the



Commando Pride Airmen's Center.

"I encourage young airmen to learn how their job supports the overall mission and keep focused on their role," Sergeant Hanson said. "Furthermore, they should never allow anyone to minimize the importance of their role and believe in 'One Team — One Fight.'"

Moreover, in between his normal duty hours and volunteer work, Sergeant Hanson managed to complete several technical proficiency courses and nine college credits during 2002 alone.

"Seldom does a week go by that you don't read about a Hurlburt Field unit or individual being nominated for or winning an Air Force-level award," Sergeant Hanson said. "It's apparent that here, excellence breeds excellence."

Spotlight on ...

Randy Haithcock

Rank/Duty Title: Airman first class/customer service representative

Organization: 16th Mission Support Squadron

Hometown: Lynchburg, Va.

Hobbies: School, sports and socializing with friends

Contribution to the mission:

Airman Haithcock's leadership skills and excellent technical abilities place him ahead of his peers. He unselfishly worked numerous hours ensuring people affected by Stop-Loss are notified and pay records are unaffected. He briefed and processed numerous administrative discharges, smoothing the transition from the Air Force for several people.

A dedicated airman with no prior customer service experience, he stepped in and immediately started helping customers. He verified 200 Records of Emergency Data and completed approximately 105 Common Access Cards in his first two weeks assigned.

(Editor's Note: The COMMANDO highlights airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job, and should receive day-to-day recognition. Supervisors can call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information on nominating an individual for the "Spotlight on..." column.)

AIR FORCE NEWS

Pacific Air Force names first responders

By Staff Sgt. Stacy Coville
36th Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam – Military commanders used to look at a deployment location and ask, “Who’s going in first?”

Gen. William Begert, Pacific Air Forces commander, answered that question for Pacific Air Forces by creating the 613th Contingency Response Group.

“We were developed to provide a short-notice, light and lean, easily-tailorable asset for the Air Force,” said Col. Benjamin Pulsifer, 613th CRG commander. “Instead of sending security forces from this base, contracting from that base and financing from another base in an ad hoc fashion, mish-mashing everything together, PACAF (officials) created one single unit that has everything it needs job-wise to go and complete the mission.”

The 613th CRG can deploy within 24 hours to various locations to help make the air and space expeditionary force mission successful. It creates footholds in countries where planes and people can support military operations throughout the Pacific region and in Southwest Asia.

“Basically, we’re the tip of the AEF spear,” Colonel Pulsifer said. Airmen of the group call their mission “AOR” – assess, open and receive. They assess an area, prepare to open an airfield for aircraft and

receive incoming troops.

The 13th Air Force commander can send the 613th CRG to the area to look at the capabilities of local airfields and access any vulnerability. The commander will use that information to decide whether or not to deploy follow-on forces.

If U.S. Pacific Command leaders decide the location needs aircraft, the group’s airmen can make the airfield ready to use. Working with a tanker airlift control element from Japan, they’ll open the airfield, establish force-protection measures, prepare facilities for follow-on forces and contract host-nation support, officials said.

Once the airfield is ready, 613th CRG airmen assist the follow-on forces with settling into the facilities and raising tents.

But before follow-on forces set foot on the airfield, the 613th CRG airmen have already given USPA-COM leaders “eyes on the ground,” Colonel Pulsifer said.

“When (decision makers) send the CRG, they send a team tailored to the operation,” Colonel Pulsifer said. “If they just want an airfield assessment, we might send an eight-person team with people from security forces, intelligence, medical and others. If they want us to open an airfield for use, we’ll send more people to do the mission.”

People from 35 Air Force specialties work in the 613th CRG. They’re separated into two squadrons and two

divisions: the mobility response and security forces squadrons, and the intelligence and medical divisions.

“If something happens, we’re some of the most vital people to send,” said Staff Sgt. Richard Ganapin, a 613th Mobility Response Squadron civil engineer. However, the 613th CRG is unique from other units because its airmen can help each other on most of the basics of their different jobs.

“We have training weeks in the group where we show each other our jobs,” said Tech. Sgt. Daniel Hawkins, of the 613th Security Forces Squadron.

Not only does being in the 613th CRG give airmen the opportunity to learn from each other, but it also gives them the chance to do something they don’t normally do – be where the action is.

“When you’re in finance, you’re usually behind a desk in an air-conditioned office,” said Tech. Sgt. Wayne Mobley, of the 613th CRG finance office. “This job is more physically challenging. We do rucksack marches here because if we get deployed, we’ll be carrying a pack, M-16 and gear as we march to get to our designated location.”

“We’re a self-sustaining operational group with an operational mission, and we have support and operations people working side by side out there in uncharted areas to make the mission work,” Colonel Pulsifer said. (AFP)

News subscription service available

SAN ANTONIO – Air Force Link, the Air Force’s premier Web site, has launched a new subscriptions management page.

From this Web page, people can manage their subscriptions to a variety of news and information services delivered via e-mail.

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subscriptions range from the daily Air Force Print News to major command news services.

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News Briefs

SECDEF promotes use of Reserve components

In a recent memo on rebalancing U.S. forces, the secretary of defense promotes judicious and prudent use of the Reserve components. He has three objectives:

- Reduce the need for involuntary mobilization, especially during the first 15 days of a rapid response operation

- Establish a more rigorous joint requirements process that provides timely mobilization notice

- Improve the efficiency of the mobilization/demobilization process

Reservists need DoD support during lengthy conflicts

The Department of Defense challenge is to develop policies, practices and programs that’ll support a viable, healthy Reserve component through a lengthy conflict.

- Repeated, long-duration, short-notice involuntary mobilizations can’t be sustained

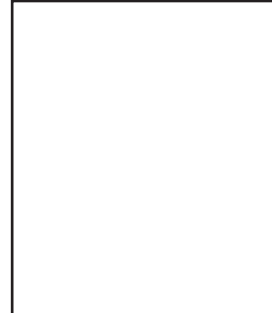
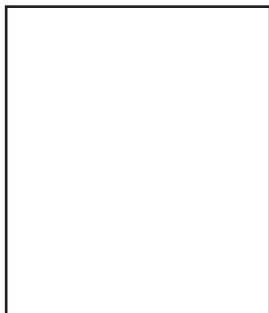
- Reduced reliance on involuntary mobilization doesn’t imply reduced reliance on Reserve components

- The U.S. military has to innovate to find ways to integrate the Reserve components into the fight that are suitable to their part-time, citizen airman status

Total force concept still enforced

The Air Force has been and will continue to be a pioneer in finding new ways to tailor our active/air Reserve component partnership for the demands of this new conflict.

We’ll do so without backing away from our commitment to a fully integrated total force, and the involvement of our part-time airmen in every aspect of the Air Force mission.



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AFSOC command chief to serve as USSOCOM senior enlisted advisor

By Tech. Sgt. Ginger Schreitmuller
AFSOC Public Affairs

The Air Force Special Operations Command command chief has been selected by the commander of U.S. Special Operations Command to become the next senior enlisted advisor for the unified command.

Chief Master Sgt. Bob Martens will be the fifth senior enlisted advisor to USSOCOM, and the second Air Force chief master sergeant to serve in that position.

"I am honored to be able to represent the entire enlisted force of U.S. Special Operations Command," said Chief Martens. "These past few years have shown America what we already knew – the Special Operations family is a viable, committed, lethal and dedicated force. We've trained together, fought together, mourned together and triumphed together as one team. We recognize the power behind jointness.

"I consider it a privilege to be able to serve the enlisted SOF family – no matter what uniform you wear. Special Operations is a small team, which packs an incredible force and the linchpin of it all is the enlisted people. I look forward to being your representative," said the chief.

Chief Martens enlisted in the Air Force in 1976 as a security police specialist. He retrained into the Combat Control career field in 1980, and after a year of intense training earned his beret as a Combat Controller.

The chief earned an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Bronze Arrowhead for his combat role during Operation Just Cause in Panama. Chief Martens was part of a small team that took part in a daring pre-invasion mission to provide critical electronic navigational aid placement, establish long-range communications and pass critical real-time intelligence information to the Task Force commander. The chief was selected as one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year in 1991.

He assumed duties as the AFSOC command chief in January 2001.

"While I look forward to new challenges at USSOCOM, I will miss being among the AFSOC family," said the chief. "I've never worked with finer warriors."

Chief Martens will report to Headquarters USSOCOM, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., in August. He takes the lead as the unified command's top enlisted person from Command Master Chief Richard Rogers, who is retiring.

The Air Force announced the selection of Chief Master Sgt. Jim Mowry as the next AFSOC command chief. Chief Mowry is currently the command chief for the 352nd Special Operations Group, RAF Mildenhall, England.

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Duke medic Graduates IDMT Course

Story and photo by 2nd Lt. Marnee Carlson
919th SOW Public Affairs

DUKE FIELD, Fla. – A Duke Field medical technician with the 5th Special Operations Squadron is the first reservist in more than 30 years to successfully complete the challenging Independent Duty Medical Technician course at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas.

Tech. Sgt. Michele Perry was one of six out of 11 people who graduated from the 58-day training course in July and is currently the only Independent Duty Medical Technician in the Air Force Reserve Command.

"The school was very challenging – it has a 50 percent washout rate," Sergeant Perry said. "I've never studied so hard and long in my life."

These specially selected technicians are trained to perform duties with overlapping scopes of responsibility in the areas of: medical administration, medical laboratory, pharmaceuticals, Public and Occupational Health, physical examinations, routine and emergency medical care, and emergency dental care.

Serving in the medical field isn't new to the 16-year veteran. Sergeant Perry joined the Air Force in October 1987 to serve as a medical technician. She then transferred to the Air Force Reserve in March 1995, and later transferred to Duke Field.

An SME consists of a flight surgeon and two medical technicians. According to Sergeant Perry, due to a change in Air Force regulations, medical technicians assigned to an SME should be IDMT qualified.

The course prepared Sergeant Perry for duty in remote and isolated operational environments. She said that when IDMTs deploy to isolated duty locations, they function as a one or two-man clinic, conducting sick call, doing basic lab tests and performing emergency dental care.

To prepare her for this role, Sergeant Perry and her classmates covered two semesters of human anatomy and physiology, and how to perform physical examinations.

While at Sheppard AFB, she participated in approximately 84 hours of clinical experience, examining and treating patients at the Family Practice Clinic and Student Health Clinic.

IDMTs are also charged with maintaining community health at deployed locations; therefore, Sergeant Perry was schooled in public health measures and bioenvironmental procedures.

"We're responsible for testing the drinking water and inspecting dining facilities to ensure the proper sanitary measures are being followed when food is prepared," Sergeant Perry said.

The next step in Sergeant Perry's training is a three-

week orientation course at Hurlburt Field. At this school, she will work with her preceptor, the physician she's assigned to and whose license she works under.

When Sergeant Perry isn't working at the 5th SOS, she works at the 919th Medical Squadron. In fact, the 919th MDS helped her get her IDMT class date.

"(Sergeant Perry) is an outstanding NCO who goes above and beyond; whatever she sets her mind to, she achieves," said Capt. Bobbi Rudd, 919th MDS deputy administrator. "She's a definite asset to the team. We at the 919th Medical Squadron are extremely proud of her accomplishments."

Impact of drunk drivers hits home for new airman

By Airman 1st Class
Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

After a personal encounter with a drunk driver, a Hurlburt Field airman has become heavily involved in the base's Airman Against Drunk Driving program.

Airman George Blake, 25th Information Operations Squadron, said he didn't consider volunteering for the AADD program, until he was rear-ended by a drunk driver while driving in the local area.

"While in the Commando Pride Airmen's Center, AADD

representatives came to talk to us," Airman Blake said.

"The briefing caught my attention, but I really didn't give it much thought on how it could involve me," Airman Blake continued.

Then, Airman Blake had a personal encounter with a local drunk driver. He was on his way back to base one evening with a friend, and was stopped at an intersection.

"At first I didn't think anything of the headlight in my rearview mirror, until the car was nearly right at my bumper," Airman Blake said.

Then, Airman Blake and his friend were hit from behind by a driver traveling between 35 and 40 miles per hour.

"The impact was hard enough to propel my motionless 1997 Pontiac Firebird into the car in front of me," Airman Blake said.

Fortunately, Airman Blake didn't sustain any serious injuries from the impact.

"I was informed the following week that the driver was driving severely under the influence," Airman Blake said.

"...After learning this news, I was up in arms and decided to redirect my energy to make sure

this didn't happen to others," Airman Blake said.

After the accident, Airman Blake began heavily volunteering for AADD. He attended meetings, voiced his ideas and soon became a public affairs officer on the board.

"His rapid ascension within AADD is a true testament of his selfless dedication," said Tech. Sgt. James Warren, 25th IOS.

"He's a professional in every sense of the word," Sergeant Warren continued.

After some time, Airman Blake began spreading the word to several new airmen during

CPAC briefings on a bi-weekly basis. And after a few months, he was named chairman of AADD.

"In the last eight to 10 months, the program has grown leaps and bounds and has more popularity than ever," Airman Blake said.

"There have been less drunk driving incidents involving base airmen. My goal is to get as many people involved in AADD in any way possible," Airman Blake said.

For more information about the AADD program, e-mail Airman Blake at george.blake@hurlburt.af.mil.

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ECAMP, Continued from Page 1

Maintenance dredging of Hurlburt Field's fuel pier is a project adjacent to the salt marsh project that involves dredging sand from the pier basin, hauling the sand to the de-watering site on base and disposing of it in an approved landfill off base, he further explained. By merging portions of the two projects the base was able to save approximately \$300,000.

The solid waste portion of the inspection, which involves recycling, identified that the recycling center recycles more than 600 tons per year and requires a certification.

"We average about 2,400 tons of recyclables per year," said Robin Armhold, 16th CES, pollution and prevention program manager. "Recycling more than 600 tons per year is one reason we need to be certified, but another reason is because we use out of state brokers. It's a very good thing that we're doing as much as we are, and although we can still do more, the base is doing a good job of recycling."

Ms. Dewar is extremely pleased with the work the environmental staff accomplishes on a day-to-day basis.

"They make sure this program remains a leader," she said. "They stay current in all the environmental rules and regulations, and constantly seek out training opportunities so personnel all over the base receive environmental training."

Several people provide their support on a daily basis to make the wing's environmental program a success, Ms. Dewar said. Everyone from the unit environmental coordinators, the JAG, bioenvironmental engineering and safety should be commended for their efforts.

"The frontline workers do so much to ensure the environmental program stays in compliance," Ms. Dewar said. "Their professionalism and knowledge of environmental issues is outstanding. This truly is a team effort, and all members of the team can be proud of their part in the success of this inspection. The praise the base regularly receives from the community, and now from the ECAMP team is a tribute to their hard work."

The following five members were recognized as Outstanding Performers:

Staff Sgt. Deborah Plummer, 16th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Wilson, 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron

William Crim, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron

Traci Dewar, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron

Randy Trent, 16th Civil Engineer Squadron

COMBAT, Continued from Page 1

support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It's a great honor to receive this award," said the sergeant. "The Air Force is full of outstanding airmen and I've always been very impressed with those who have been selected to represent our service in past years."

"I owe my team leader an enormous debt of gratitude. Over the last two years Lieutenant Bill White taught me what I needed to know to succeed. Then he showed confidence in my abilities by sending me on key missions during OEF. I'm grateful for his leadership."

Before joining the Air Force, Sergeant Blodzinski played division one ice hockey for Iona College in New York for three years. When he heard about the Special Tactics career field from his brother-in-law, an Air Force firefighter, he said he knew it fit his personality.

"The competitive nature of college athletics really prepared me for service in Special Operations," said Sergeant Blodzinski. "The physical training, stress level and intense teamwork really helped me meet the challenges of Special Tactics training."

"In the coming years I'm going to continue to deploy whenever I can," said the sergeant. "I believe in everything we are doing for America right now in the war on terrorism. My grandparents did what they had to do to keep America free during World War II and now it's our generation's turn. I love my job and it's an honor to do it."

SPORTS



Photo By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis

13K relay re-run

Forty-four people on 11 teams showed up for the 13K relay re-run at the main fitness center July 18. The previous relay was cancelled due to lightning. The 23rd Special Tactics Squadron took first place with a time of 0:59:35, earning 100 Commando points. The next 13K relay is scheduled Feb. 13, 2004. For more information, contact your unit sports representative.

Competitive sports programs make fitness fun

By Senior Airman Sam Taylor
Public Affairs

Physical fitness is important to overall good health, but exercise routines can soon become dull.

Thankfully, Hurlburt Field's comprehensive sports program can add competitive spice to anyone's fitness regimen.

"Our intramural sports program is very competitive," said Chris Myers, Hurlburt Field sports director. "Everyone has a good time competing with their squadron team against other squadrons. Some people just come out for fun and to be active."

Squadron intramural sports range from popular events like football and basketball to golf, relays and even horseshoes.

"Horseshoes is something new we're trying this year," said Myers. "We have 10 teams signed up for this lunch-time league. This gives an opportunity for

people who don't play in standard programs to participate."

Other unique Hurlburt Field sports events include visits from the Royal Air Force basketball team, indoor soccer and track meets.

"Track meets were established to promote track here and in the area," Myers said. "We've had past track meets with up to 40 participants, and we hope to increase that number and build the program up. We only offer a handful of events until participation increases, but we have one of the best tracks in the area — people should take advantage of it."

The next step up from squadron intramural play is the varsity sports program. Varsity teams play against the best from surrounding military bases.

"Base-level sports programs offer our elite athletes a chance to compete on a higher level," Myers said. Some players even advance to Air Force-level sports. Hurlburt Field has more people apply for

Air Force teams than any other base, Myers said.

Many women's sports are available as well, including basketball, softball and football, for both military and their family members.

"Women's varsity basketball players are needed the most," said Myers. "Women basketball players seem hard to find, even though the base is loaded with great players. I feel that more can be done within squadrons to promote women's sports."

Sports information is distributed by squadron sports representatives who form teams, sign people up for activities and handle unit sports issues.

Another sports spin for squadrons was the resurrection of the Commando Commander's Trophy program this year. To win the trophy, squadrons must build up points accumulated from participation and event victories.

"We offer a variety of programs

allowing anyone a chance to participate in some kind of fitness activity," Myers said. "There are a lot of family members who need to know that these programs are here for them as well. Everyone should stay in contact with their squadron sports representative to find out about upcoming events."

Sports program info

Intramural sports

Basketball
Softball
Flag football
Soccer
Volleyball
Golf
Horseshoes
Paintball
Bowling

Other sports

Track meets
Racquetball
Tennis
13K relay
Roller hockey
RAF Basketball

Fitness centers

Main fitness center:
Monday through
Friday, 5 to 1 a.m.;
Saturday, Sunday
and holidays 8 a.m.
to 6 p.m.

Commando fitness
center:
Monday through
Friday, 6 a.m. to 9
p.m. closed week-
ends and holidays.

A third facility is
scheduled to open in
2004.

Sports shorts

Varsity Basketball

Men and women basketball players are needed for the Hurlburt Field varsity basketball teams. Men must be military members to be eligible; women may also be family members to join. Players must submit their name, rank and duty phone number to the main fitness center for consideration. Volunteer varsity basketball coaches are also needed, and must submit an application to the fitness center for review. For more information, call the fitness center at 884-6884.

Youth sports

Registration for youth soccer, flag football and cheerleading continues through Aug. 1. Players and people interested in coaching can sign up at the

youth center weekdays, from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$42 for one player, or \$84 for two or more players. Team practice begins in late August. For more information, call Jim Harriott at 884-6355.

Okaloosa men's Baseball

The Okaloosa Men's Baseball League kicks off its 5th season with registration at the Twin Oaks baseball field in Niceville, Aug. 10, at 3:30 p.m. (Twin Oaks field is on Highway 85 North, just past College Boulevard.) Registration is for both the 18-and-over and 30-and-over divisions. League fee is \$90 per player. Final day of registration is Aug. 17. Game season begins Sept. 6. For more information, call 867-PLAY, or visit www.ombl.org.

LIFESTYLE

Military

AFCWC Change of Command

The Air Force Combat Weather Center invites everyone to attend a change of command ceremony Monday at 9 a.m. at the AFCWC Hangar, where Lt. Col. John Shattuck will assume command from Lt. Col. Michael Hemler. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Melissa Lewis at 881-2500.

NCOA meeting

Hurlburt Field's Noncommissioned Officer Association Chapter holds its monthly meeting Saturday at 6 p.m. at J.R. Rockers' Daytona Room. Members are invited to attend and bring a friend. Topics to be covered will be upcoming base/community events and general discussions on membership and the chapter focus. Also, the chapter is currently undergoing membership recall to bring back past and local members. For more information, call Master Sgt. Bob Love at 884-4995, or retired Chief Master Sgt. John Greer at 939-6659.

Hurlburt Top 3

All senior noncommissioned officers and master sergeant selects assigned to Hurlburt Field are invited to join the Hurlburt Top 3 meeting Aug. 7 at 3 p.m. at the Enlisted Hooch. For more information, call Master Sgt. John Brinkley at 884-8422, or Master Sgt. David Ceurvels at 884-2828.

ACSC seminar

The Air Command and Staff College invites majors, major selects, active-duty, Guard, Reserve, civil air patrol and civilians GS-11 and above to apply for the AY03-04 ACSC non-resident seminar, which will begin the week of Aug. 4 and continue until June 2004. Seminars meet for 10 1/2 months, 3 hours per week, and provide eligible students with an excellent forum to complete the intermediate-level Professional Military Education course.

Application Form 117 is due to the base education office by Aug. 1 and are available online at www.acsc.au.af.mil. For more information, call the base education office at 884-6724.

N.Y. Air Guard

The 109th Airlift Wing in Scotia, N.Y., home of the C-130 ski-birds, has traditional Guard vacancies in the following career fields: 2A3X3, 2A5X1, 2A6X2, 2A6X4, 2A6X6, 2A7X1, 2A7X3, 2E1X3, 2F0X1, 2T0X1, 2T1X1, 3E0X1, 3E3X1, 3E4X1, 3E9X1, 3S0X1, 3S1X1, 3M0X1, 3P0X1, 4A0X1, 4A2X1, and 6F0X1, as well as, full-time active-duty opportunities in 2A5X1.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Wes Ryerson, 109 AW/DPR, at DSN 344-2456, or e-mail wesley.ryerson@nyscot.ang.af.mil or call 1-800-524-5070.

SNCO induction ceremony

The Hurlburt Field Chiefs Group and the Hurlburt Field Top 3 Council co-sponsor the 2003 Senior Noncommissioned Officers Induction Ceremony Aug. 8 at 2 p.m. at the Soundside Club.

Reservations should be made no later than July 28 by calling Master Sgt. Paula Jackson at 884-1233 or e-mailing Paula.Jackson@hurlburt.af.mil, or calling Tech. Sgt.

Margie Lusher at 884-6910 or by e-mailing margie.lusher@hurlburt.af.mil.

Senior airmen, NCOS needed

The Air Force is looking for sharp senior airmen and Noncommissioned officers to cross-train into the Manpower and Organization career field, 3U0X1. If you're available to cross-train and are interested in a challenging, high visibility and rewarding career in an area of Human Resource Management, e-mail ramon.rogado@hurlburt.af.mil.

New college class

The U.S. Army Command and General Staff College is forming a class for majors and promotable captains, to meet one weekend per month beginning Oct. 18 here. Participants can earn military education level four in a classroom environment without a permanent change of station for resident studies. Interested active-duty and Reserve Component Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine O-4is (O-3P) personnel should call Maj. Wayne Hausser at 591-7163, or e-mail wayne.hausser@us.army.mil.

Community

Friday flicks

Gulf Coast Marketing and local radio stations invite military personnel, friends and family to enjoy free movies every Friday at the Pensacola Pavilion beginning today until Aug. 29. Movies are selected based on popularity when initially released and suitable content for family viewing. Everyone is encouraged to bring blankets, lawn chairs, and food and beverages; local vendors will also be present for food and beverage purchases. For more information, call Doug McAllister at 916-9222.

Kidsfest

Kidsfest will be held Aug. 2 at the Gulf Breeze Zoo. Families are invited to enjoy a day filled with family entertainment, back-to-school vaccinations, safety programs, games and exhibits. Admission is \$1 for children, who bring a can of any Pepsi product, and \$9.95 for adults. For more information, call Doug McAllister at 916-9222.

16th LRS closing

The 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron mobility bag section, which is located in the Deployment Control Center, is closing for training Monday until noon. Please limit requests to emergency temporary duty issue requirements. For more information, call Master Sgt. Richard Guttilla at 884-1332.

Emergency leave request

Mr. Kenneth Woolridge, an Air Armament Center employee, requests donated leave due to a personal emergency. All employees who wish to donate annual leave should complete an OPM 630A, Request to Donate Annual Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program form, which is found at www.opm.gov/FORMS/PDF_FILL/opm630a.pdf, and submit it through their supervisor to the 16th Mission Support Squadron Civilian Personnel Flight, Building 90210, Room 135.

For more information, call Patricia White at 884-5212/5215.

Hurlburt Field
Chapel
884-7795

Catholic Mass

Saturday, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.

Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request.

Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday

Religious Education:

September–May

Protestant Services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (praise & worship),

11:30 a.m. (traditional),

12:45 p.m. (Gospel)

Religious Education: August–May

Youth and Singles groups available

Jewish Services (882-2111)

Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center

Havdallah services: next-to-the-last Saturday of each month, 7 p.m., Chapel annex

Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center

Jum'ah: Friday, 12:45 p.m.

Qur'an: Saturday, 6 p.m.

At the movies

Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Hurlburt Field 884-7648

Friday (PG-13) *Fast 2 Furious*, starring Paul Walker and Tyrese Gibson. Former police officer Brian O'Conner teams up with his ex-con pal Roman Pearce to transport a shipment of idly money for shady Miami-based import-export dealer Carter Verone, while actually working with undercover agent Monica Clemente to bring Mr. Verone down.

Saturday (PG-13) *Dumb and Dumber*, starring Eric Christian Olsen and Derek Richardson. Set in 1986, when mentally challenged best friends Harry and Lloyd were teenagers, this is the madcap comic tale of their attempt to get out of the ispecial needs department and into regular high school life.

Sunday (PG-13) *Down With Love*, starring Ewan McGregor and Renee Zellweger. Feminist writer Barbara Novak has just penned *Down With Love*, a book denouncing romance in favor of career goals. When it hits the best-seller list, womanizing journalist Catcher Block tracks her down, and an unlikely romance blooms.

Eglin 882-1066

Friday (PG-13) *Hollywood Homicide*, starring Harrison Ford and Josh Hartnett. When an entire hip-hop group is murdered on stage, the L.A. Police Department homicide detectives Gavilan and Calden are called in to handle the case. As their investigation progresses, they begin to suspect that the rappers were killed for attempting to get out of their recording contract with label head Sartain.

Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m. (PG) *Rugrats Go Wild*, animated film. When vacationing Rugrats and their parents get stranded on a deserted island, Tommy Pickles knows there's only one man who can help them: Nigel Thornberry. Except that a hit on the head has made Mr. Thornberry suddenly seem more like a 3-year-old than a man. Luckily, the babies have Eliza on their side. With her ability to communicate with animals, she can talk to Spike.

Sunday (R) *Wrong Turn*, starring Eliza Dushku and Desmond Harrington. A turn down an uncharted dirt road leads six young people into a night of pure terror where they're hunted by cannibalistic mountain men. They find that they've fallen victim not to local pranksters, but a gang of inbred backwoods killers with a taste for blood.

(Editor's note: Movies are subject to change. Telephone numbers are provided for patrons to confirm scheduled playdates.)

Pryor Clean UP Day

Parents for Pryor sponsors "Ship Shape Day" Saturday from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at Pryor Middle School, located at 201 Racetrack Road. Past, present and future pirates, along with friends and family are invited to join the community in beautifying the grounds of the school. Participants will need to bring garden tools, gloves, rakes and sunscreen. Community partners will provide lunch and refreshments for volunteers. For more information, call W.C. Pryor at 833-3610.

Volunteers needed

The Boys and Girls Club is looking for volunteers to help with its 17th Annual Triathlon Aug. 23 at the Elephant Walk Restaurant in San Destin. Volunteers will help with a variety of tasks, including setting up the course. For more information or to volunteer, call Renee Winn at 622-0602.

Pass and Registration hours

The Pass and Registration has changed its hours as follows:

The old hours were Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; the new hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Speed changes

The speed limit on Independence Road from the new east gate to Lielmanis Avenue, which is the road that leads to the Base Exchange and the Eglin Federal Credit Union, has been reduced from 35 miles per hour to 25 mph in both directions.

Vehicle operators should always be patient and courteous to pedestrians crossing Independence Road at the Base Exchange and the 19th Special Operations Squadron area.

New ERAU Certificates

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University has two new

certificates available. The first one is the Supply Chain Managemnet Certificate for supply/logistics professionals. With only four courses to take, students will be prepared to take the American Production and Inventory Control Society Certificate in the Production and Inventory Management exam and earn credit toward their degree program.

The other certificate is the Occupational Safety and Health Certificate. After completing the course, students will be able to protect their work force and the general public from injury and illness by passing on valuable information.

For more information, call the ERAU office at 581-2106.

Education fair

The Fourth Annual Education Fair is Aug. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hurlburt Field Education Building. College representatives from on and off base will be on hand to answer your questions. There'll be door prizes, refreshments and an abundance of educational information. For more information, call Tracy Deming at 581-9840, or e-mail ithurlburt@fwb.gulf.net.

B C A A fashion show

The Black Cultural Awareness Association sponsors a fashion show Aug. 9 at Eglin Air Force Base's NCO club. Social hour begins at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m. The cost is \$10 and includes hor d'oeuvres. For more information, call: Felicia Brake at 882-3148, ext. 603; Pam Hasberry at 882-4136; Ruby Dunson at 882-6518; and Staff Sgt. Charles Gray at 884-7523.

EEO Briefing

Tim Poole, Rosemary Knight and Ronald Overholtz, Air Armament Center, Eglin Air Force Base, will brief all managers, supervisors and employees on an overview of equal employment opportunity. This briefing will provide civil service as well as non-appropriated fund employees an overview of the EEO process,

Special Emphasis program and the Alternative Dispute Resolution program. The briefings will be held at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., July 31 at the Hurlburt Field Theater. Each briefing will last approximately 30 minutes. The briefings are for all civilians and military, regardless of rank.

Claims

Anyone with claims for or against Staff Sgt. Jesse Fontenot, 16th Component Maintenance Squadron, who died July 8, should contact 1st Lt. Darryl Lee, 16th CMS at 884-7618.

Clinic closure

The 16th Medical Group closes at 11 a.m. today for training and an official function. Normal clinic operations will occur from 7 to 11 a.m. Eglin Air Force Base's emergency room will be available during the closure.

Classes

FSC classes:

For more information, call 884-5441.

Employment Orientation – Monday, 9 a.m.; Wednesday, 1 p.m.

Mapping your career – Monday, 1 p.m.

Moms, Pops and Tots – Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Veteran's Affairs/Social Security Briefing – Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. at the base theater

H AWC classes:

For more information, call 884-4292.

Fitness for Weight Management – Tuesday, 8 a.m.

Lean on Me – Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.

Healthy Weight for Kids – Wednesday, 2 p.m.

Eating Heart Healthy – Thursday, 9 a.m.

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FEATURE

Youth get a taste of Spec Ops

By Airman 1st Class Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

Approximately 20 youth from the local area were up for the Special Operations challenge during the first Camp Adventure July 14 – 18 at the Hurlburt Field Picnic Area.

The camp, which was sponsored by both the 16th Services Squadron here and Eglin Air Force Base's 96th Services Squadron and assisted by local Boy and Eagle Scouts, was designed to give the youth an inside look into Special Operations, by teaching them basic survival skills and emphasizing the importance of teamwork.

When the youth arrived at the camp, they were divided into four teams – the Golden Eagles, the Blue Smurfs, the Green Gremlins and the Red team was Lost in Paradise – and assigned a Scout to help mentor them throughout the week.

The scouts assisted the campers in learning various survival skills to include: orienteering, tying five different types of knots, using a compass, reading a map, kayaking, and search and rescue.

Towards the middle of the week, the youth were led on a kayaking trip six miles down the Yellow River, and into the Shaw River, to test their kayaking skills as well as the use of a compass and map.

Because of the thunderstorms a few days earlier, the river had many tree limbs and large pieces of rubbish floating near the surface.

"Although the trip turned out to be more challenging than anticipated," said Camp Director Del Mucci, 16th SVS, "it was a good opportunity for the campers to use teamwork and utilize their

newly learned skills."

To enhance the military aspect of the camp, Mr. Mucci invited the Tactical Air Control Party to do their morning physical training in full gear at the picnic area.

The visit from TACP allowed the youth to see real military teamwork in action – Special Operations style, he said.

The youth also took hikes on the nature trail to learn orienteering, played paintball and went snorkeling in the sound.

To wrap up the week's events and training, the youth were tested on each of the survival skills they had learned throughout the week in a six-element survival competition.

Once the campers had completed the course, they gathered in the meeting area with the leaders and mentors for a time of reflection.

"I would definitely recommend the camp to others," said Camper Micah Elea. "I've learned valuable skills I can use even after leaving the camp."

Another camper suggested making the camp two weeks long, instead of just one week. Parents of the campers were also pleased with the week's events.

"It's absolutely wonderful for sharpening their survival and teamwork skills," said Larry Parker, father of camper Sarah Parker.

Because of the positive feedback and success of this year's camp, Mr. Mucci hopes to create a two-day survival camp for active-duty, Reserve and Guard adults in the future.

"There's a space and aviation camp in the makings for next year," Mr. Mucci said, "but we're hoping to get more support for future camps."

For more information about Camp Adventure, call Mr. Mucci at 884-3766.



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS HEIDI PAVIS



The Blue Smurfs (above) work together to untie a collaboration of knots to move onto the second round of the Six element survival test. The Golden Eagles (right) wrap rope around two dowels – while having one foot each in a hula hoop – in order to reach for a key on a pole 4-feet away. The Golden Eagles (below) begin their kayaking trip a half mile across the sound to find their three team flags for the last leg of the survival test.

